

Poetry Blanket

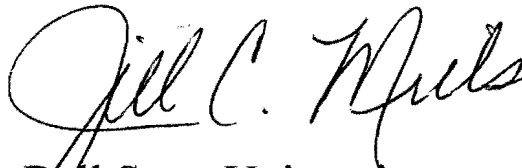
An Honors Thesis (HONRS 499)

By

Lisa Knauff

Thesis Advisor

Dr. Jill Miels

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jill C. Miels". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jill" being the most prominent part.

Ball State University
Muncie, Indiana

January 2006

Expected Date of Graduation: May 2006

Abstract:

The poetry blanket was a blanket created by the fifth grade class at DeSoto Elementary school where I student taught. Each student created a square for the blanket about a particular poem that they studied. Each square represented a different poem. The students were also required to write a three-paragraph paper about the poet and the poem. This project includes copies of the students' papers, photographs of the students working on the project and presenting their projects to the class, and the blanket itself.

Acknowledgements:

I would like to thank Dr. Jill Miels for being my advisor for this creative project.

I would also like to thank Mrs. Harman's fifth grade class and the DeSoto staff for their cooperation and support with the project.

Rationale:

I chose to do a creative project for my departmental honors thesis. While student teaching during the fall 2005, I created a poetry blanket with my student teaching class. I student taught at DeSoto Elementary School in a fifth grade class. I chose to create this blanket with the students because I thought that it was a fun and interactive way to learn about poetry. I know that poetry tends to be an area that students do not enjoy learning about, so I thought the students would be more excited about poetry by learning it this way. The format of the project also gave the students a chance to choose their own poem. This allowed the students to choose a topic of interest to them which made poetry more meaningful to the students.

For my project each student studied a different poem. The students were required to write a paper about their poem, create a quilt square for the poem, and present both to the class. The paper contained information about the poet that the students researched along with a summary of the poem and the meaning of the poem. After the students created the quilt squares, I created the poetry blanket which was hung in the school. The students spent four days of their reading time working on this project. The first day they found their poems in the library. The second day I introduced the project and the students began reading their poems, sketching their drawings for the square, and writing their papers. The third day the students put their drawings on the quilt squares. The last day the students presented their projects to the class.

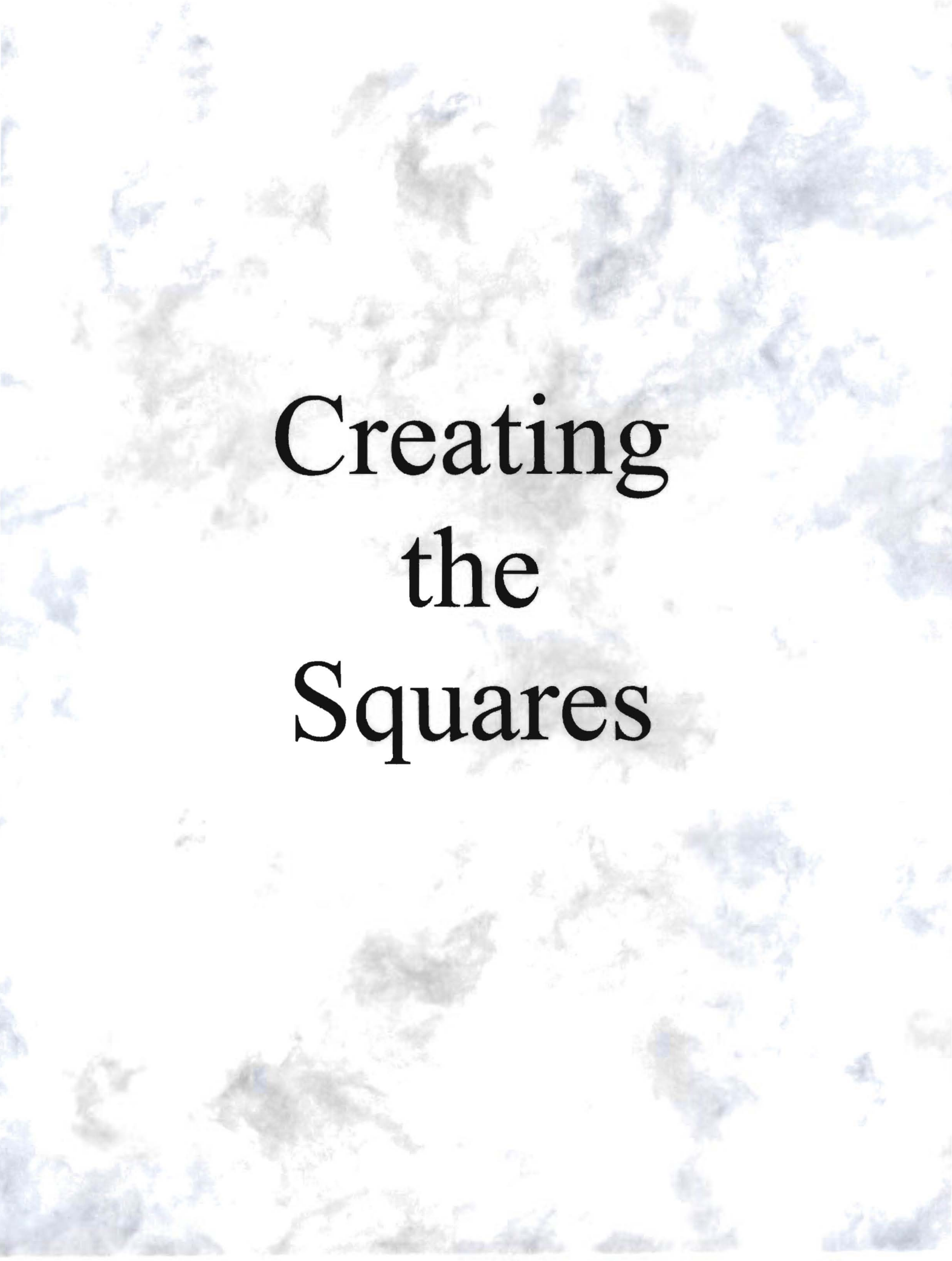
This project was very important to both the students and me. I had the students do this project during the first half of the semester. It was the first project that I assigned the students, so it was a learning experience for me. The first rubric I created was used for this project. I also learned about the importance of setting expectations for the students and providing written directions for them. This project was important to the students because it gave them an opportunity to read and critique a piece of work. They not only had to say what the poem was about, but they also had to explain the theme or meaning behind the poem. This challenged the students to think at a higher level which is very beneficial for fifth graders. Because the students were able to choose their own poem for the project, they were able pick something that was interesting to them or on their level. This helped meet the needs of and appeal to all students. When students enjoy what they are doing, they are more likely to do well which occurred with this project. The project was also important because it involved different learning styles

which also helped meet the needs of all students. The students had to write a paper, draw on the quilt square, and present them both orally to the class. Overall, this poetry project was very valuable to the students and me.

Reflection:

I learned much and really enjoyed doing the poetry blanket with my student teaching class. As stated above, I completed the project relatively early in the semester, which was helpful. I thought that it was a great activity for me to see the students' personalities, work habits, and abilities early in the semester. I also enjoyed doing this particular project because I chose to do something that I enjoy. I enjoy doing creative crafts, such as making a blanket. It was fun for me to work with the students to create the blanket. It was also great to display the blanket for my class and the entire school after it was completed.

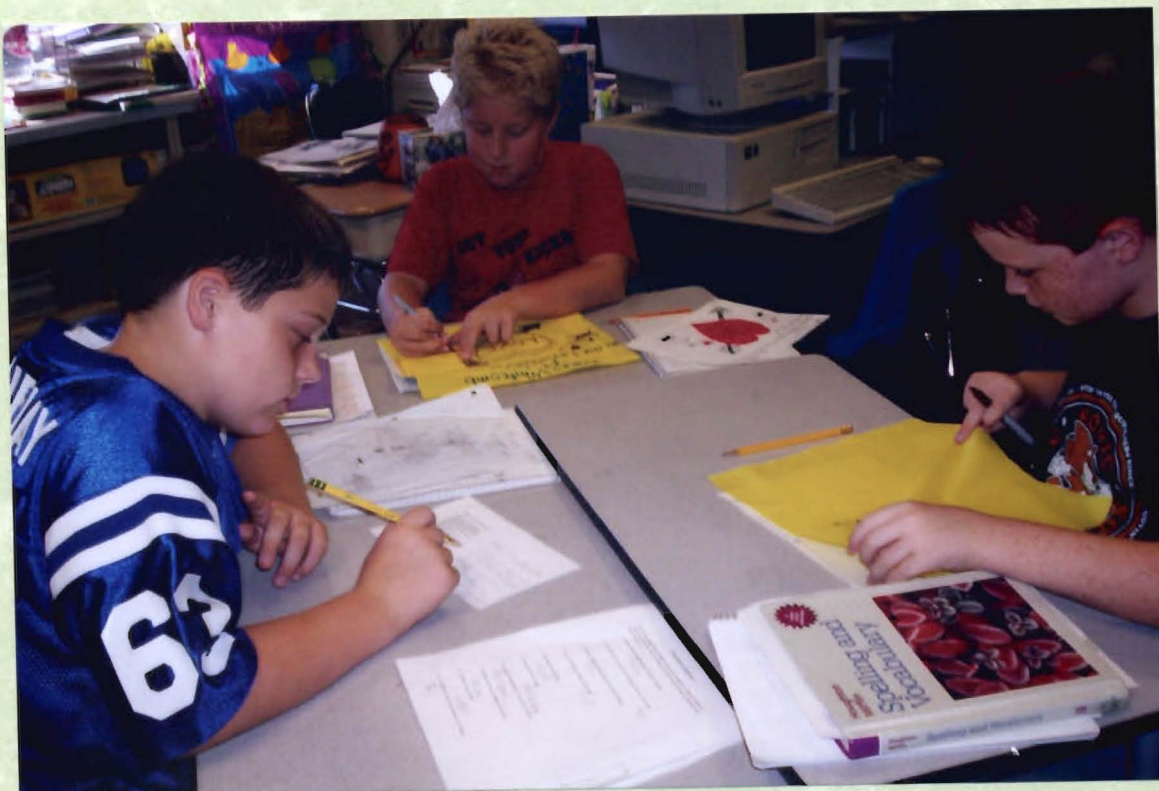
I also thought that this poetry project was a great learning experience for the students. They had to do some research on their poet so that they could write a paragraph about the poet. This was a simple, short research activity for the students which should help them with research in the future. The students also had to think critically for this project. That also is very beneficial to the students. Overall, I really enjoyed completing this project with the students. I believe the students and I all had fun completing the project, and we all also learned from it.

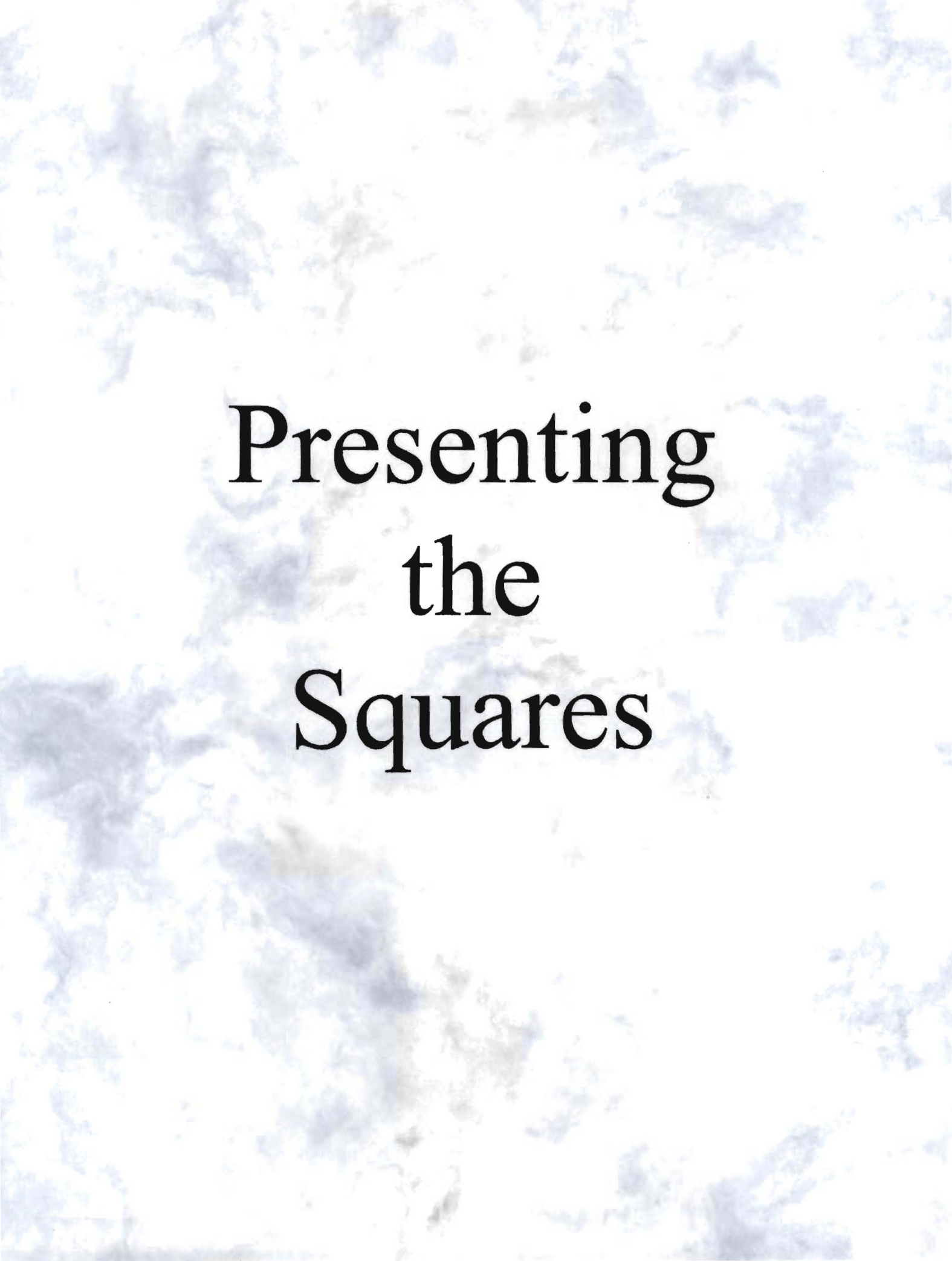


Creating the Squares

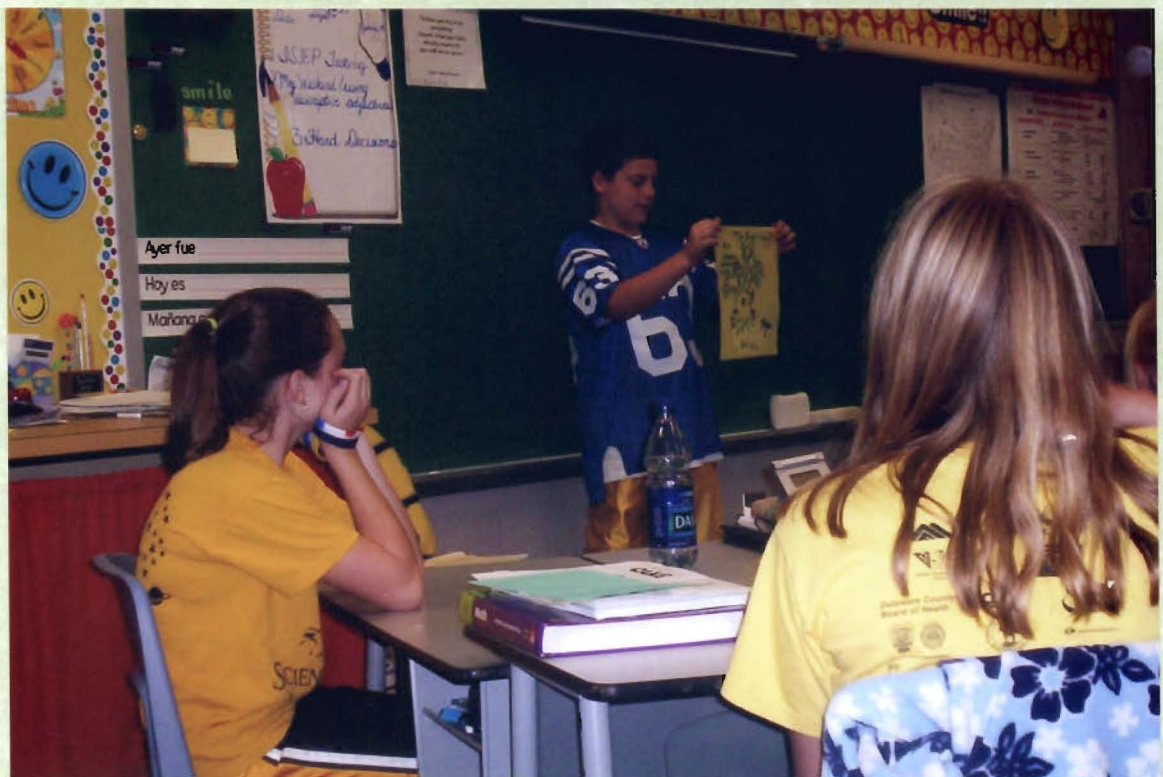






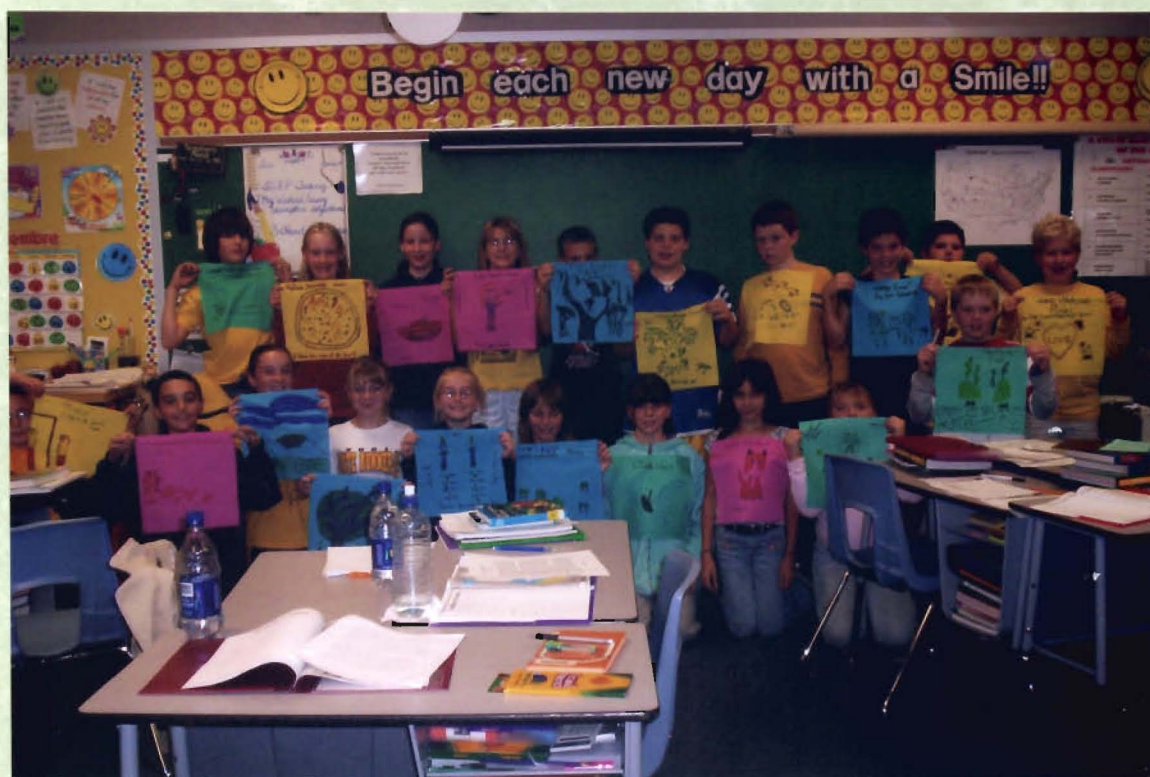


Presenting the Squares



The background of the entire page is a classic marbled paper pattern. It features a complex, organic design with swirling, cloud-like or stone-like textures. The color palette is primarily light blue and white, with occasional flecks of a muted, earthy brown or tan. The overall effect is one of traditional elegance and visual interest.

The Finished Product







Student Papers

Mirror

By J. Patrick Lewis

What I am telling you now is interesting things about J. Patrick Lewis. He was born in 1948. His parents were Leo and Mary Lewis. He has written many poems like Dust Jacket, Asian Passion, Twit, The Red Army Colonel Drunk on New Years Eve, The Difference, Late Marriage, Ecstatics, and Mirror. Those are a lot of facts.

This is about the summary of the poem. The summary of the poem is basically a person looking into a mirror. It goes on for a little bit about thinking that it just winked. It also mentioned that its reflection is fluttering its eyelid. Well, that's the summary.

This part is about the meaning of the poem. The meaning is that what you do, your reflection does. If you wink, so does your reflection. If you dance, your reflection does the very same thing at the very same time you do. Well, there was the meaning.

Thank You

Inc.

"A Nasty Little Dragonsong"

Jacob 7

It's about a nasty dragon half an inch high. He says he is the nastiest person in the world. He is nasty to everyone. He's unnoticed cause he's half an inch high.

I think the meaning is that usually if you mean you get ignored like you really small.

Jack Prelutsky is a poet. He made a Nasty Little Dragonsong. He may still be alive. I like his poetry.

inc.

"Four Little Foxes"

Kayleigh #4

The poet is Lew Saret. He wrote the poem "The Loon". He is a great poet. It is hard to find information on him. He is the only poet I know about.

The poem is about four little foxes. It is cold and raining in the snow. The foxes see their mother caught in a trap. I think the foxes were in a cave. It is hard to think of the meaning.

The poem has weird lines, like "walk softly" or "speak gently." I kind of like the poem. "So lightly" is also a weird line.

"Nellie and Bill"

Haley5

Jim Aylesworth is a native to Jacksonville, Fl. He is now living in Chicago, IL. He was a 1st grade teacher at Oak Park, IL. He loves children and writing book's. Jim is very good with children.

My summery would be it is a great poem. If you like food you will like this poem. It is very interesting. This poem is very funny. That is my summery of my poem.

The meaning is that if there is someone stubborn you know don't stop smiling. I believe it is the meaning because in the poem Nellie never stopped smiling. I think you have to pick your own meaning because there is so many different meanings. That is what I think was a good answer. That is the meaning that I choose.

Leland B. Jacobs
By Kenna [REDACTED]

Leland B. Jacobs was born in 1907. During his career as an author he wrote more than forty story and poetry books for children. He also trained teachers at Ohio State University, teaching literature, language arts, and early childhood classes. Mr. Jacobs was the author of numerous journal articles and books and was an international lecturer and consultant. He died in 1992.

The poem I read by Leland Jacobs is titled "Autumn Leaves." It is about the fall and what it looks like when the leaves are falling to the ground. It basically tells you that it is fall and green, yellow, red, and brown leaves are blanketing the town. The part of the poem I like the best is ["...Big leaves, little leaves pointed leaves, and round. Falling, nestling, carpeting the ground."] I like this part because the author compares the leaves to different things like carpet.

I think that the meaning of my poem is that fall is beautiful. You should enjoy the falling leaves. Just look at all of the colors of the leaves. You just need to enjoy fall while it lasts.

“The Bear Story”

James Whitcomb Riley was one of the greatest poets ever. James hometown was Greenfield, IN. He was born in 1849 and died in 1916. James had trouble academically but possessed a talent for language. He died of stroke. James Whitcomb Riley is my favorite poet.

“The Bear Story” is about a boy who goes into the woods hunting, along the way he meets two bears. He climbs in a sycamore tree and goes to the very tip top. He shoots the little bear, making the big bear mad and the big bear climbs the tree. The boy hid in a hole in the tree and the bear can't find him. The bear falls and dies, and the little bear got up because he was just playing dead. The boy waits in the tree until morning, he ate apples all night because it was an apple tree. In the morning the little bear tries to shoot the boy but holds the gun backwards and kills itself.

I think the poet is trying to say that you can change the poem around. James changes several things in the poem, like the tree, that the gun didn't break, and the little bear dying. He really knows how to rhyme words well. James is sometimes hard to understand because of the way he rights. I think James Whitcomb Riley is very smart and kind.

Brandon G.7

Late

-1

Sticky Buns

~~My~~ My poet name is Jim
Aylesworth. I think his poems
are great. Especially because
they are about food. They
really funny too. I enjoy
his poems.

The poem is about
these cinnamon buns. They
are really sticky. In the
poem it says they can't hug
or shake hands. Or they
can't move. I think it's a
good poem.

The meaning of the
poem is that cinnamon buns are
sticky. They have all that icing.
The icing is sugary. Which makes
it sticky. I like this poem.

"The Wolf"

9-29-05

Audrey #10

About The Poet

Georgia Roberts Durston often worked with John Kennedy. They were kind of working buddies. For example they both did "Like in the Rain", and other books as partners.

The Summary

The moon is in the sky, and the Wolf is all alone. While the Wolf howls at moon. When he howls at the moon it seems to sooth him. Like singing a song.

The meaning

He's all alone. No one there at all. So he sing a little song. He likes moon to sing to. The moon sooths him, and makes him comfortable.

XXX Poet

David #1

Robert Frost was born on March 26, 1874 in San Francisco. In 1882 he dropped out of school but his mom taught him. In 1885 his father died leaving his family with 18. In 1890 he wrote his first poem. He died in 1963.

(1) This is my summary of "The Road Not I took". A traveler was walking in a wood. He came to a split in the trail where he stood. He took the less traveled road. That made all the difference.

This is one paragraph about what the poem means. This poem is about making choices in life. Like he took the other path because it wasn't popular and what's popular isn't always right. Like he said it makes all the difference. That is what the poem means.

9-29

My Poem

#Crystal

The poet Jack Prelutsky was born in 1940 in Brooklyn, New York. He grew up in the Bronx. Jack's family lived in a six-story apartment house. He is an author of more than 30 poetry collections. He was married to a girl named Von Tre-Venefue. He met her in France. He got divorced in 1995. He is still living and he is 67.

A person who was in deep thought had time to think about themselves. They like it when it's quiet. They are their own self when they are full of silence. When they are silent they choose not to run or play. When it is silence it is the best time to think and truly be themselves.

The meaning of the poem is
all the meaning in the poem is silence. The...

can be there self. The person
also listen to themselves. They
really use there imagination
to think of things. They also
don't want be running, playing
or jumping. That is what I
think of the meaning of the poem.

About the author

9-29-05

By Aaron J.13

I think that my author is a creative thinking person. I think that he is a larger man. The reason I think this is because the book was all about food. He may not be a larger man perhaps he is a chef. I like to say that he is a man of talent and he works on his poems and doesn't rush through them.

I think that the main topic of the book is food and that he is trying to teach us that poetry can be many different kinds, such as food, treasure, seats, and people. My favorite is the creative thinking as something that most people wouldn't do. That if you eat things or you eat more than other people. I think that people just think that other poems are not creative just because they like them. I think that people think that is some has a main topic such as food that there larger people.

I think that if you try and do different poems that you may be a successful person. The reason I think this is because they can right 3 on everything. Then see what sells the best then make more of those. That's how I would try to sell books. I think that you have to be a very clever person to right poems. 😊

9-29-05 Poetry Paper Erika #14

Sharon Creech is a very interesting author. She uses very descriptive words. I really like her books. My favorite is "The Wanderer". She is a very good author.

A short summary is... A girl wants to go on a boat. But her parents say she is too young. She dreams that she is on a boat and a huge wave comes down. But she always wakes up before the wave totally falls.

I think the main idea is... Kids are too young to be on a boat alone. Because that person may get hurt. Or a wave could come down on them in a storm. It is very dangerous.

My Report on my Poet and my Poem

9-29

Kelsey#15

My poets name is Jack Prelutsky. He is a very famous poet. He was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1940. He originally studied arts in high school. In fact, he went to the High School of Music and Art.

He went to collage at Hunter Collage located in Manhattan, New York. Now he lives in Washington state with his wife.

My poem is called "Peanut Peg and Peanut Pete." I think a summery of the poem is this. Two people have a peanut store on an Atlanta street. They sell peanut cookies, cakes, butter, shakes, ices, pies, sauce, and peanut fries. They sell sweet peanuts and salty ones. All day long they gaily sell.

I think this is a very funny story. I really wouldn't want to eat peanut shakes or fries. ☹ I really think that little kids would like it a lot. They would be laughing at all of the foods. It is a really funny story. You should read it sometime. ☺

Poem

9/29/05

16Elijah

James Whitcome Riley was a great poet. He has written many great poems. Lots of them were story poems. He always put a lot of thought and worked very hard on his poems. Even if he wrote poems that use words that we don't say today. I think his poems are still great.

The story is about how he meets this girl. He talks about some stories about them. He talks about how beautiful and cute she is. He also talks about what might happen in the future. He really liked this girl.

The meaning of the poem is that love is something that is great. You can't even rap it up or put it in a bag. It is special. It is something you can't describe unless it hits you. That's what the poem means.

"Love song"

By Arnold Adoff

Evan#17

My poem is called "Love Song". It is about deserts. Like cake, pudding, chocolate, and cookies. It makes your mouth water when you read it. Or it makes you laugh. It is a good poem.

The poet's name is Arnold Adoff. He has written a lot of food books. He is a good poet. I like his poems. I think they're funny. I think they have good food in them.

I think this poem doesn't have a meaning. Except all the foods he loves. It kind of means that even desert taste good doesn't mean it's good for you. Or it means he likes chocolate. But how doesn't? I like it.

“The Ascent at the Diner”

**By James
Stevenson**

James Stevenson was born in the 1930's. His mother's name was Winifred and he had a brother named Eric. His father was a bugler in WWI, but also went back into service for WWII. James was only 10 years old at the time. He has now written and illustrated over 100 books, most of which are picture books. He puts more detail into drawing objects than most people do.

I think that the poem “The Ascent at the Diner” is supposed to be why a toothpick is put on a cheeseburger. Mr. Stevenson used the viewpoint of a very little person to narrate his theory. His theory is that when the little person reaches the top, he puts a “flag” on top of the bun like an explorer might do if he's claiming a mountain. (It really is a toothpick with Cellophane on top.) The little person climbs over a lot of stuff to get there. Some of these things are: the bottom bun, mayo, mustard, meat, lettuce, onions, pickles, top bun, and chips on the side.

I think that Mr. Stevenson was trying to cleverly explain how a toothpick gets on top of a cheeseburger. He is giving his humorous opinion on why the toothpick is there. I think he does it in his own creative way. It is really easy to comprehend what the message is he is trying to tell you. He leaves lots of context clues, and illustrates with words and drawings.

Katherine #18

Christian
He taught first grade for
twenty-five years. He has been
visiting schools across America.
Since 1980 over twenty five
of his picture books have
been published. The award
winning author has many lessons
for everyone. I think Jim Alesworth
is a great poet.

My story was "Perfect Couple."
I think the story is about someone
who is different. Nobody likes him,
and then he finds a friend. It is
a great story.

I think the story means everyone
can find a friend. I could mean
you should take a shower. I like the
first one personally. I could also mean
to try to be someones friend.
I think all the meanings would work.